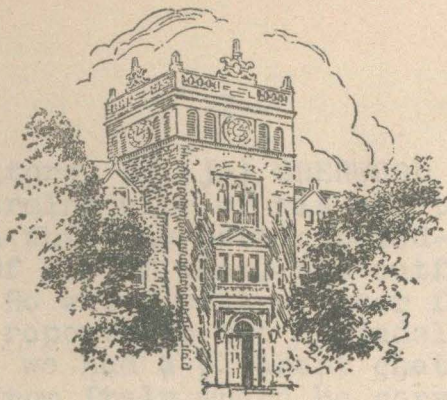


To the

FRONT

June 15, 1945

Number 63



from

MUHLENBERG

Greetings:

A long time ago Elsie and Kitty and I promised ourselves--and I think we told you about it--that come what might, this little letter to you fellows in service would go into the mail every other Friday. Since that time we have been late in a lot of things, but somehow or other, when the Woman's Auxiliary reported on Friday noon the letter always was ready for them to put into the mail. We thought we'd have to break our word this time because of the pressure that has been on for the past few days, but the girls crashed through again and, if the mailman does his part, you should be receiving this letter on time. If it's a bit shorter than usual we'll blame that on the fact that the mimeograph machine has been grinding away at a steady pace for the last 48 hours and has a raft of things that still must be run through before the term ends next week.

Big things are coming up at Muhlenberg in the next few weeks. First of all there's the Pre-commencement Smoker of the Allentown Alumni Club on Friday night, June 22, at the Livingston Club, and the annual meeting of the Alumni Association at the same time and place, both to take the place of the regular reunion parties that again have been cancelled because so many of you fellows couldn't attend. Then on Saturday, June 23, the College will unveil a portrait of Atty. Reuben J. Butz '87, president of the Board of Trustees for more than 35 years and a member of the Board for some 40 years. Following right along will be commencement and baccalaureate on Sunday, June 24, and then the beginning of the new term--with a special summer session combined--on July 9.

On July 9 some of us will be down in Baltimore for the launching of the S.S. MUHLENBERG VICTORY--one of the new Victory Ships being named for outstanding American colleges and universities. The ship now is being completed at the Bethlehem-Fairfield Shipyard in Baltimore and the launching will be an event of which all Muhlenberg men will be proud. Who knows--it may bring some of you fellows back from other lands to resume your civilian life. That's what we'll be thinking about as the new ship cuts the water. Mrs. Levering Tyson, whose interest in Muhlenberg at the side of her husband and whose work and energy have helped build the new Muhlenberg, will launch the ship at the invitation of the builders. We'll tell you all about the party as the plans progress and any of you fellows in the Baltimore area who would like to attend will be taken care of with ringside tickets if you drop us a line, pronto.

So you see, with all those things hanging fire, and with Alumni coming home by the dozen for visits on the campus, we really are managing to keep busy enough to keep out of trouble. No--don't get us wrong--we definitely aren't complaining nor are we asking for any orchids. We know there was work involved when we took this job until Johnny Wagner comes back--just as you knew that what you are doing would mean work, and a lot more than work. When we read your letters and read in the newspapers about what so many of you are doing all of us here at College feel very humble and we dig into our respective jobs all the harder.

Oh yes--the Loyalty Fund. It's still rolling in as the deadline approaches. Up to the moment 1178 Muhlenberg men have given \$8,415.14 to support the work of their College in these critical years and that's just \$1,400 more than Muhlenberg men gave in any other single year. With the deadline set for June 30, the end of the College's current fiscal year, we're still hoping to hit the \$10,000 mark for the first time in history and we think we have a fair chance of succeeding. For your information, the fund now includes \$2,899 from 414 Muhlenberg men in the armed forces.

Talking about visitors, LT.(jg) SHERWOOD COTA '42 dropped in the other day with that charming wife of his and told us just a little bit about four invasions in which he participated--Sicily, Italy, Normandy, and finally Okinawa. Of all of them, his outfit had the toughest time when they hit Sicily. He was a boat officer for the first three invasions. Next week he reports to the Philadelphia Navy Yard for re-assignment. Then, too, we had a pleasant chat with T/SGT. RAYMOND SCHOLL '46, just back from Italy where he served as a radio gunner on a Liberator and chalked up 50 missions before the war ended. In the past few days we also have seen ROBERT TAYLOR '47 here before reporting to Great Lakes; GILBERT HOFFMAN '44, in medical school in Philadelphia; Marine LT. J. HENRY BROWN '44, with brand new gold bars on his shoulder after completing his training at Quantico; LT.(jg) JOHN UMLAUT '40, still teaching gunnery at Little Creek, Va.; and BERNARD NEUMEYER '43, who is taking some special electronics courses at the Navy Pier in Chicago. I have a feeling, as this is being batted out, that I missed a few of the boys but I'm away from my notes and this part of the letter is being written from memory and in a hurry.

If we were Walter Winchell--we could tell you that down around the Colloge Store they say that although ENSIGN BILL DEISSLER '44 is out in the Pacific his major interest is here in Allentown. Bill is giving a lot of thought these days, also, to the religious services he conducts aboard his ship and sent us a copy of what certainly must have been a dandy service. But the name isn't Winchell, so we shouldn't be talking about these things.

We'll just hop around at random today as we work to the bottom of the mail bag. First to come to hand is a letter from CHAPLAIN J. ALBERT BILLY '29 who now is at sea in the Pacific. Before he left Atlantic waters he ran across LT. WINNIE SLEMMER '27 and CHAPLAIN JACK M. KLECKNER '31, both aboard fighting ships. We thought we had a swell story for you when we read a letter from LT.(jg) CALVIN LOEW '43 who participated in the initial landings on Okinawa. After telling some of his experiences he really had us out of the chair with this paragraph:

"There's a lot of excitement that just started on board ship a few minutes ago, so I'll have to call a halt to this letter writing. Everybody is running around like mad. What's the excitement? Well, a few stalks of celery were just brought aboard! That's the first celery we've had in over six months, so I'm going to make sure I get a taste of it. Pass the salt please!"

According to the last word from PFC. GORDON TREISBACH '37, the war is still going ahead on Okinawa where the Japs are fighting with plenty of good equipment that Treisbach says they know how to use. LT. J. E. HARTMAN '24 writes to say that he is ready to come home any time now after spending more than his allotted number of months at sea in the Pacific. His letter came from the Philippines and brought the news that he has command of his own LST. After a long period out in those waters, he says, a fellow begins to wonder whether there really is such a place like home. If any of the rest of you are wondering about that--the answer is yes. There's home and there's Muhlenberg too and we'll be as glad to see all of you as the folks at home are.

That reminds us, one of the boys we forgot to mention as having been in was BILL STACKHOUSE '45, about to complete his work in Quartermaster's School at Bainbridge. He announced his engagement on March 17 to Helen Louise Giberson who, like Stackhouse, comes from Easton and considers the EASTON EXPRESS to be the last word on everything. (Sorry Bill, we couldn't resist that one.)

And before going on with the mail we hasten to make two corrections--gladly and willingly. We intimated a little while ago that LT. ALLAN MAKI '44 was among the missing. Well, he's safe and sound now and on his way home. He was reported missing in action in Yugoslavia on April 12, but evaded capture and returned to his own lines. Incidentally, he holds the Air Medal with three oak leaf clusters and the Presidential Unit Citation. The other correction is that BILL BARRY, who was the Navy storekeeper when the V-12 Unit first came aboard, is also safe and sound which means the information we gave you in the last letter was an error. That's the kind of corrections we are very happy to make.

It took just a postcard for ENSIGN JAMES WILDER '45 to report that he met FRANK NEWMAN '43 and PAUL TAYLOR '44 while out at Pearl Harbor. When it comes to meeting people, ENSIGN MERVIN SHUMAN, who trained with the V-12 unit, has something of a record. He and ED STILES are on the same ship; he saw PAUL TAYLOR just after the latter came back from an invasion; and then he saw FRANCIS SCHRADER while he was awaiting assignment as engineering officer on a minesweeper in the Pacific.

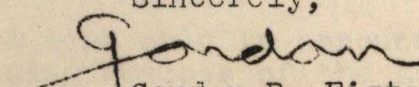
Out on his little island in the Pacific MYRON KABO '42 did a tall bit of rejoicing the other day (must have been a few weeks ago) when for the first time his station received a shipment of fresh meat, fruit and vegetables. He says you can't imagine what a treat a fresh spud, crisp cabbage and carrots are after going without them for nine months. The destroyer on which LT.(jg) BLAIR KRIMMEL '43 is serving somewhere in Philippine waters has been out there longer without leave than any destroyer now in the Pacific. He says the boys are beginning to feel as if they are in the Philippine Navy. From Shoemaker, Calif. JOE WARE reports that RONNIE SHORE, SAM BAGSHAW, TOM LEE, and MERRILL BURHANS, all V-12 men, have been shipped into the Pacific area and that he himself is waiting to go. LT. HANK BAIETTI, another V-12'er, likewise reports that he is on his way to parts unknown by way of Pacific waters. MAJOR E.W. McNEIL '22, who has been in the Pacific area for two years and who wrote recently from the Philippines, expects to be home on leave before too long.

And here come some letters from the other side of the world. The Eighth Air Force reports that SGT. FREDERICK JOHNSON '44 has added his third oak leaf cluster to his Air Medal. CAPT. KENNETH LAMBERT '39, stationed in a small town in the central part of Germany, wrote to tell how he played stork to a German woman, called the deal to a turn, and stuck out his chest when the family named the little fellow Kenneth. CPL. KENNY MILLER '47--who used to staple these letters when we took over Wagner's job a long time ago--writes from Ulm, in Germany, to say that he enjoys swimming in the Beautiful Blue Danube. All of us here in the office envy you this afternoon, Kenney, we'd like a good swim too--even at Cedar Beach. After travelling about the States for a year PVT. JOE LAUB '40 was converted into an infantryman and sent to Germany arriving there a little while before the war in that theatre became a closed issue. When PVT. KEN DOLLINGER '46 took stock of things in Austria, he found he had 25 tiny points to his credit so he's thinking about another long trip. Ken was with the troops that effected that historic junction at the Brenner Pass and, according to IRA WEISMANN '47, his picture made STARS AND STRIPES. Now that the war in Germany is over, PFC. ROY BUTTERWICK '46 reports the boys get all the beer and wine they want.

We promised the gals--after keeping them stepping in here until all hours last night--that we'd keep this letter a bit shorter than usual and we hope you won't mind. The mimeograph machine is about to burn out a bearing and in these days of war we can't let that happen so--here are the promotions we have heard about: ENSIGN ROBERT DOLL '44; T/5 ROBERT FREEMAN '42; ENSIGN CHARLES GOODALL '43; LIEUTENANT W.J. DOABLER '38; SECOND LIEUTENANT PAUL MERKEL '38; CAPTAIN WILLIAM GRASLEY '39; CAPTAIN THOMAS WEABER '36; LIEUTENANT (jg) PAUL CANDALINO '43; LIEUTENANT JAMES DUFFY '44; CAPTAIN DANIEL PETRUZZI '40; PRIVATE FIRST CLASS RUSSELL WALL '46; SECOND LIEUTENANT DANIEL PRESCOTT '44; ENSIGN EDWIN FRIESE '44; PRIVATE FIRST CLASS YAR CHOMICKY '45; CORPORAL ROBERT BARTHOLOMEW '43; CAPTAIN JOHN CARAPPELLA '34; Fl/c HAROLD JOHNSON '44; PhM2/c LEON GODSHALL '32; PhM2/c MARTIN FELS '42; SECOND LIEUTENANT ARNOLD PETRY '44; ENSIGN EDWARD CUTLER '44; and LIEUTENANT (jg) DENNY B. BEATTIE '43.

That's the story for today. If we got any Navy history mixed in with this letter we hope you'll pardon us, because that job had a high priority and got mixed in between getting this letter off to you. The best of everything to you and don't forget to pass on the news to us so we can pass it on to the rest of the gang.

Sincerely,



Gordon B. Fister
For the Alumni Office